

Serial No. 10/634,465
Paper dated February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated October 20, 2004

Docket No. 1948-4811

In the Specification:

A substitute specification has been included with this paper to correct the noted informalities. No new matter will be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims And Explanation Of Amendments

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14 were rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,086,231 to Kenjo et al. ("Kenjo"). Claims 6 and 13 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kenjo in view of Official Notice. A substitute specification has been included with this paper to correct the noted informalities. No new matter will be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

B. Claims 1-14 Are Patentably Distinct From Kenjo

Claims 1-5, 7-12 and 14 were rejected under U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kenjo. Claims 6 and 13 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kenjo in view of Official Notice. Applicant respectfully traverse these grounds of rejection.

Applicant will address Kenjo as it relates to independent claim 1 of the present application. All other rejected claims depend either directly or indirectly on independent claim 1. As explained below, each of the elements of the rejected claims is not taught, disclosed or suggested by the cited reference.

Claim 1 of the present application recites:

1. A method of producing a lighting or signaling device comprising a light source, a reflector reflecting the light rays emitted by the light source towards a lens so as to form along an optical axis a lighting or signaling beam, the lens comprising a peripheral flange and being held by a support, the

Paper dated February 16, 2005

Reply to Office Action dated October 20, 2004

support comprising an annular surface limited at its external periphery by a cylindrical rim, the method comprising the step deforming the cylindrical rim in the direction of the annular surface in order to envelop the peripheral flange of the lens and hold it in place without play and without requiring an additional component, this deformation of the cylindrical rim being performed by applying on this rim a force parallel to the optical axis of the lighting or signaling device. (emphasis added).

Thus the force applied in the present application is parallel to the optical axis of the lighting or signaling device, whereas the force applied in Kenjo is perpendicular to the optical axis of the vehicle lamp. Kenjo explicitly states "When the opening circumferential edge portion 53 is bent (i.e., plastically deformed) radially inward (i.e., in a direction of arrow A in FIG. 7)...". Col. 4, lns 38-41. Kenjo further states, "When the opening circumferential edge portion 53 is bent inward..." as shown on the right part of Figure 7.

Considering the above, Kenjo does not disclose or suggest all the elements recited in independent claim 1 of the present application. Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is patentably distinguishable over this reference. Claims 2-14 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and, therefore incorporates each limitation of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 2-14 are allowable over Kenjo for the same reasons as claim 1. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that these grounds of rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Serial No. 10/634,465
Paper dated February 16, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated October 20, 2004

Docket No. 1948-4811

AUTHORIZATION

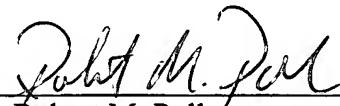
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1948-4811. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1948-4811. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: February 16, 2005

By:



Robert M. Pollaro
Registration No. 45,019

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile